



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS  
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

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### TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

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**From:** Kevin A. Gasco

**Date:** May1, 2013

#### Food Sovereignty Summit

#### Collaboration for Sustainability: Providing the Future for our People

The first night of the Food Summit there was a Networking Event and registration. At the Registration table, I was told that payment had not been received for my attendance. I was unable to make provide any documentation that any from LTBB had indeed paid my registration so I paid it with my personal card. The registration cost \$250.00.

The opening keynote address was given by Winona LaDuke at breakfast of the first day. She discussed Native food systems and the relation between food sovereignty and culture.

The Summit was composed of breakout sessions which covered 3 Tracks: Track 1: Sustainable Agricultural Practices, Track 2: Community Outreach and Development, and Track 3: Business, Finance and Marketing. For the remainder of the Summit, I attended a mix of Tracks 1 and 3. For the first breakout session, I attended Track 1- Reclaiming Native Food Systems. The moderator was Jane Mt. Pleasant, faculty member from Cornell University and the speakers were George Toya, Nambe Pueblo Farm Manager, Pueblo of Nambe, and Donielle Brinkley, Grand Bayou Indian Community. For the second breakout session, I attended Track 3 – Food Systems and Entrepreneurship. This panel was moderated by Susan Ratcliffe, Ph. D. who is on faculty at the University of Illinois and the speakers were Bruce Savage from the Spirit Lake Native Farms and Scott Hill who is Mohawk and owns Hill's Native Foods in Canada. To end day one breakout sessions, I attended Track 3- Increasing Value for Agricultural Products.

Before dinner, I was able to attend the tour of Green Bay Packer's Lambeau Field. I enjoyed the historical information, presented. After dinner, there was a film by Michelle Danforth, an Oneida Tribal member, about the game of lacrosse.

The second day breakfast keynote speakers were Michael Roberts, President of First Nations Development Institute, and Jeffrey Rafn, Ph.D., President of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and the topic was "The Strength of Partnerships". For day two's first breakout session, I attended Track 3 -- Collaborating to Buy Indian, and the speakers were Marshall McKay, Chairman of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (CA), James Slape, Jr, Councilman of the Nisqually Tribe and Chris McGershick, Chairman of the Sokagon Chippewa Community (Mole Lake). For the second breakout session, I attended Track 1- Animal Agriculture: Buffalo, Beef and Dairy. The moderator was Marsha Whiting, First Nations Development Institute and the speakers were Lisa Columbe, Sinte Gleska Universtiy (SD), Bill Inman, Ranch Manager/Livestock Marketing Specialist from Padre Mesa (AZ) and Jim Stone, Executive Director, Intertribal Bison Council. There was no third breakout session but there was a presentation by the USDA titled "Demystifying the USDA", which I did not attend.

After dinner on the second day a cultural exchange had been scheduled but due to recent deaths in the Oneida community it was not able to be held. However a small group of dancers did a limited presentation after dinner.

The third day keynote speakers were Dana Bah'lgai Eldridge, Policy Analyst for the Dine Policy Institute, Dine College and Rita Williams, Manager Creek Nation Food and Fitness Policy Council and was moderated by Patti Martinson, Co-Director, Taos County Economic Development Corporation and the topic was "Pathways to Regaining Control of Food Systems". For the final breakout session, I attended Track 1- Agricultural Bio Fuels. The moderator for the breakout was Jerry Thompson from the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council and the speakers were Michael Troge, Oneida Energy Team, Matthew Dornbush, Ph.D., Faculty of University of Wisconsin -- Switch Grass, Patrick Pelky, Oneida Environmental, and Rico O. Cruz, Ph.D., Manager of the Tribal Agricultural Center for the Nez Perce Tribe. There we youth presentations before lunch concerning food sovereignty. After lunch there were closing remarks and the Summit concluded.

As our Tribe considers the future and our relation to the earth, I recommend continued attendance at future Food Sovereignty Summits and other conferences focusing on Native agricultural initiatives. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend.

Kevin A. Gasco, Tribal Councilor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Gasco", written over a horizontal line.